

ND Student Campaign To Help Build School In Dominican Republic

BISMARCK, N.D., Nov.17, 2015 – Students at several North Dakota schools are holding a fundraising campaign this month to help build a school in an impoverished community in the Dominican Republic.

The effort is called “Schools Building Schools.” One of its organizers, Alexander Delzer, who is a senior at Shiloh Christian High School in Bismarck, said it will focus on collecting spare change from students who want to support the project.

The fundraising campaign will run until Nov. 26. Donations will support construction of a school in Comendador, a city of about 25,000 people about two miles from the Dominican Republic’s border with Haiti.

The money will go to a nonprofit organization that already does educational work in the city. It serves about 170 children each month. Delzer said he became aware of its efforts while attending a youth leadership conference last July.

“It’s going to be a full school. They have a facility right now that is used, but it is really not adequate at all,” Delzer said. “It’s also going to be used for different things within the community as well.”

Students at Bismarck High School, Bismarck Century, Dickinson High School, and high schools in Hillsboro, Wyndmere and Hazen have agreed to take part in the project so far, Delzer said.

“This is something that is completely volunteer and student-driven,” he said.

Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota’s superintendent of public instruction, is supporting the initiative.

The effort is not related to a separate organization, also called “Schools Building Schools,” that helps to build vocational schools in the African nation of Uganda. It is based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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